

S 6562

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

May 28, 1968

S. 2409. An act for the relief of the estate of Josiah K. Lilly; and
S.J. Res. 168. Joint resolution to authorize the temporary funding of the emergency credit revolving fund.

file
**NOTICE OF HEARINGS ON
EAST-WEST TRADE**

Mr. MONDALE, Mr. President, on June 4, 1968, at 10 a.m., in room 5302, New Senate Office Building, the International Finance Subcommittee of the Banking and Currency Committee will commence hearings on Senate Joint Resolution 169, which is a joint resolution that would express the sense of the Congress that the Export Control Act regulations and the Export-Import Bank financing restrictions be modified to promote the best interest of the United States by permitting an increase in trade in peaceful goods between the United States and the nations of Eastern Europe.

As previously announced, the hearings will continue on June 13, June 27, July 17, and July 24. Persons wishing to testify or submit statements in connection with this resolution should contact Mr. Hugh H. Smith, Jr., assistant counsel, Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, 5300 New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, telephone 225-3921.

D/Sec
**THE NEED TO ABOLISH BUREAU-
CRATIC TYRANNY**

Mr. DIRKSEN, Mr. President, more than 8 months ago, the Senate voted approval of proposed legislation reported by the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary, described as a "bill of rights" for Government employees. The vote was 79 to 4, indicating this Chamber's emphatic indorsement of new regulations designed to terminate political pressures and prying into the religious beliefs, sexual attitudes, and private finances of Federal workers. The system, arousing widespread indignation, has been compared to the "big brother" government envisioned in George Orwell's "1984."

For some reason, the measure has been bottled up in a subcommittee in the other body, and its chances of passage at this session now appear dim. Meanwhile, the need for reforms in bureaucratic tyranny continues evident. In a series of three columns in the Chicago Tribune, the tribulations of a constituent, Mr. Charles F. Olson of Morris, Ill., have been described. They provide graphic evidence, as the writer suggests, that Otto F. Otepka, the celebrated target of a 5-year campaign of harassment by the State Department, is not the only victim of Federal oppression.

I ask unanimous consent that the three columns written by Willard Edwards, columnist for the Chicago Tribune, be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

CAPITOL VIEWS

(By Willard Edwards)

WASHINGTON, May 20.—If it were not for other revelations about such victims of federal tyranny as Otto F. Otepka and his asso-

ciates, the story of Charles F. Olson would be regarded as incredible in this land of freedom.

It is in some respects more tragic than the Otepka account, because a cruel weapon was employed in Olson's case, leaving a stigma which will always haunt him.

Olson, 47, an American citizen peacefully engaged in the pursuit of happiness until he ran afoul of bureaucratic arrogance, came here last week, seeking relief from a campaign of harassment by the government which employs him.

For three days, he told his story to all who would listen and enlisted the interest of two powerful senators, Everett M. Dirksen [R., Ill.] and Sam J. Ervin Jr. [D., N.C.].

Then he returned to his home at 1841½ Liberty st., Morris, Ill., daring to be hopeful of justice in the future.

Olson talked to Otepka, the state department security chief who is still waging a fight for vindication after five years of federal persecution. The two men found much in common. They both got into trouble because they offended their superiors in the government by refusing to close their eyes to wrongdoing.

Both were fired from their jobs, both won reinstatement when the charges were proved false. But bureaucratic vengeance continues to pursue them.

OLSON QUESTIONED DEFENSE CONTRACTS

Otepka dared to expose conditions in the state department which protected security risk. Olson touched an equally sensitive nerve in the defense department where he was employed. His questioning of defense contracts infuriated superiors who were nervous about congressional probes of waste, inefficiency and potential fraud in the Pentagon's multi-billion dollar spending programs.

The two men are alike in mildness of manner, keen intelligence, and a fierce patriotism which inspires them to fight back against the overwhelming forces of "big brother" government. Both recoil from the thought of being classified as martyrs but are willing to take the chance of being crushed in a battle against injustice.

Olson is an electronics engineer, a grade 12 [\$12,250 a year] employee of the United States army's ammunition procurement and supply agency in Joliet, Ill.

Until he took this post in March, 1965, his life had been comparatively placid. He had previously been employed by the government for five years in the 50's as a maintenance engineer on an atomic warhead project, receiving a top secret security clearance and the highest ratings. He worked in private industry for five years before returning to federal employ. The documented record of his professional career reveals him as a trusted and respected figure, highly commended by every employer for whom he worked.

His new duties consisted of inspection trips around the country, evaluating munitions contracts together with a team of other experts. He was extremely conscious of the fact that these contracts were for supplies to equip young Americans fighting in Viet Nam. As a youth, he had served overseas in World War II as a medical corpsman. For three years, he had cared for wounded men and seen them die. He wanted no waste of taxpayers' dollars or costly delays in the fulfillment of government contracts.

PROPOSES PLAN TO SAVE \$250,000

On his first trip, Olson pointed out how a \$250,000 saving could be accomplished on a contract. On another tour, he made recommendations designed to speed up the manufacture of weapons. The record shows that the contractors in these cases acknowledged the soundness of his suggestions, but Olson found himself quickly in trouble with his bureaucratic superiors.

He was advised to approve contracts without scrutinizing them too closely. He was only increasing paper-work, reflecting upon the efficiency of higher-ups, and getting a reputation as a "trouble-maker."

Olson refused to "go along." He continued to note defects. After a series of warnings, he was suddenly, in November, 1966, dismissed on charges of being absent without leave.

With the aid of his pastor, the Rev. David Zimmerman of St. Thomas Episcopal church, Olson secured legal aid and fought the dismissal. He and his family, a wife and three sons, endured the loss of his income for six months. Then, at a hearing in Chicago, he proved his contention that the charges were without basis. He was ordered reinstated by the Civil Service commission with full back pay and Washington rejected the agency's appeal against this ruling.

It should have been a moment of triumph. But the government now promptly wielded its most dreaded instrument to punish refractory employees—a charge of mental instability. That story will be explored in a succeeding column.

CAPITOL VIEWS

(By Willard Edwards)

WASHINGTON, May 22.—For a brief, comforting period, Charles F. Olson of Morris, Ill., believed that an ordinary American citizen, with justice on his side, could prevail over the awesome forces of the government bureaucracy. Disillusionment came quickly.

As described in a preceding column, Olson won his fight in May, 1967, for reinstatement to his post as electronics engineer in the army's ammunition procurement and supply agency in Joliet, Ill.

The charges against him had been officially branded as without basis by the Civil Service commission. They had been leveled by angry superiors who resented his refusal to close his eyes to defects in defense contracts providing materials for the troops in Viet Nam. The word from the Pentagon, alarmed by congressional exposure of waste, inefficiency, and fraud, was to get rid of this underling as a "non-conformist and disruptive influence."

Olson, 47, collected six months back pay and paid off debts incurred during his legal battle for vindication. On his first day back at work, he found that he had not been forgiven. A fellow worker told him, "We got rid of you once and we'll do it again."

Instead of being returned to his engineering duties, he was assigned to a clerical job, filing meaningless papers. Other employees were hostile or afraid to speak to him.

PATTERN OF VENGEANCE IS FAMILIAR

The pattern of vengeance was familiar. He was isolated and given demeaning duties just as Otto F. Otepka and his associates, in a more celebrated case, were penalized by the state department for refusing to remain silent about wrongdoing.

The defense department, in Olson's case, now decided to use the weapon of reprisal most dreaded by government employees. It ordered Olson last January to submit to a psychiatric examination.

In his entire career, up to this point, no question had ever been raised about Olson's mental fitness. He had served for three years in military service in World War II and later, as an engineer on a top-secret atomic project where every employee was rigidly examined. In private industry, he had been subjected to exhaustive psychological testing, receiving superior ratings.

He was surprised when the psychiatrist dismissed him after a half-hour of questioning. Such examinations are usually lengthy and detailed. Promptly, the verdict came thru: Olson was a "chronic paranoid," an individual suffering from "paranoid delusions of